

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00644 121156Z
ACTION SCS-06

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8560

UNCLAS HONG KONG 0644

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: WITNESSES IN FEDERAL COURT PROCEEDINGS

REF: TELEPHONE CALL FROM PALMER ROYSTON, SCS, JANUARY 12

1. UNITED FAIR AGENCIES CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE. THEY INFORMED CONGEN THAT CAPTAIN YU LIN-HOI AND SECOND ASSISTANT ENGINEER LAI YUI MING ARE NO LONGER IN THEIR EMPLOY AND THEIR WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN ALTHOUGH THEY ARE HONG KONG RESIDENTS. CHIEF OFFICER WONG TAK-WOON IS NOT AVAILABLE AS HE IS AWAY FROM HONG KONG ON A SHIP. AGENCY INFORMED CONGEN THOUGH THEY COULD NOT SPEAK FOR MEN NO LONGER IN THEIR EMPLOY, AGENCY UNDERSTANDS THEY WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN APPEARING AS WITNESSES AND, MOREOVER, PRIOR TO LEAVING U.S., THEY GAVE STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CASE. AS FOR WONG TAK-WOON, AGENCY SAID HE TOO DOES NOT WISH TO APPEAR SINCE HE PROVIDED STATEMENT.

2. CONGEN HAS ASKED AGENCY TO PROVIDE US WITH ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF WITNESSES SO THAT WE MIGHT CONTACT THEM. AGENCY SAID THEY WOULD SEE IF SUCH INFORMATION IN THEIR FILES.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE RELUCTANCE WITNESSES TO APPEAR FOR ONE OR MORE REASONS, SUCH AS LOSS OF WAGES FROM WORK AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FEAR FOR THEIR
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SAFETY. LATTER FEELING WOULD STEM FROM NATURAL DESIRE TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN WHAT WE ASSUME WAS BAD BLOOD SITUATION ON CHINESE CREWED SHIP WITH CLAN OR TRIAD (GANGSTER) OVERTONES.

4. IF WE ARE ABLE TO CONTACT ANY OF WITNESSES, WE WILL SEEK TO PERSUADE THEM TO APPEAR AT TRIAL.

SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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